cians, etc. Dr. Woodward has taken up that work, I believe. We still need physicians. The work increases with the expansion of the Navy. I wish I could write you of our activities, but the censor forbids.

Health conditions are good. Everyone works with enthusiasm, the morale is high, defeat is unthinkable.

With best wishes, sincerely,

U. R. WEBB.

CONCERNING AN EDITORIAL.

To the Editor:

I want to thank you for your little paragraph about the verb "to operate." "To operate" is "to work," and I have often thought when I have heard some of my confrères saying how they had "operated a patient" that they were unconsciously and in truth telling how they had "worked" him.

Very sincerely yours,

HARRY M. SHERMAN.

San Francisco.

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE, NEAR WHERE THE CANNONS CAN BE HEARD,

January 29, 1918.

We are at present out in the woods getting back our health from the trip we had coming to this place. I wish now I had studied my French a little more before starting across. However, I am gradually learning the lingo. My teacher has just left on his gallant steed announcing that target practice is over for the day. They are all fond of American cigarettes and tobacco, these French soldiers that we come into contact with, quite often paying fabulous prices.

I have had cases of severe bronchitis, some measles, mumps, scarlet fever and bad colds; rheumatism, tonsillitis and a few operative cases for old troubles. The men got paid last night and were very happy as many had not received any for some months. The Red Cross has been very good to us, furnishing us with helmet caps, sweaters, socks, mufflers and wristlets. The Y. M. C. A. is doing lots for the soldiers and needs all the support you can give it. Have seen lots of country and strange sights which I hope to be able to tell you about in 19—.

If any of your friends happen to be coming across let me give you what I've found out personally: (1) Take along some magazines to read on the boat, as all may not have as good a library as we had on ours. (2) If they play cards, take some along, otherwise you pay dear for them. (3) Candy and gum must be taken. (4) Plenty of cigarettes and tobacco in general for smokers. (5) You can get better exchange for your money at the Y. M. C. A.'s most all the time. (6) Take plenty of changes of wearing apparel and have it handy as you may be separated from your luggage and it may be lost for some time. (7) Watch your luggage as much as possible, as you may have it at the end of your trip, not otherwise. (8) Learn your value of your new money so as not to get stung. (9) Baths are hard to get at times. (10) Eats, you will have to change your idea a whole lot. (11) Breakfast, they have the blackest of black coffee. (12) Milk is seldom partaken of if you believe in "safety first." (13) Sleeping accommodations are—sometimes you do and sometimes you don't, but soon your hips become accustomed to the beds. (14) Candies are high. (15) Wines and other liquors are reasonable, only sold at certain hours to the military. (16) High leather boots are worn considerable, also rubber boots.

(Signed) G. B. WILCOX,
162nd Infantry, Medical Depart.

SAN FRANCISCO POLYCLINIC WAR LETTERS.

Notes From Camp Lewis.

December 13, 1917.

Since coming to Camp Lewis my experiences have been wide. You know when a civilian enters the military the first thing they want to know is how to act. The acting will work if they know how to salute. This is particularly so if they have a uniform on. At first it was hard to pick a newcomer but now it is very easy. For instance a captain rushes up to you beaming all over, and saluting, wants to know where headquarters are and who is in charge. Immediately he is told to go to the Y. M. C. A. Building where Major Latrine holds forth, incidentally asking if he has an old umbrella. He will go and do as he has been told. Then about fifty men gather around for the fun. So much for the funny side of military life.

When first arriving in camp—the Masonic Ambulance Company from San Francisco,—and at that time known as Provisional Ambulance Company "B"—we were met by a Field Hospital Corps from Portland. If it had not been for them we would have probably starved. They fed our company for two or three days, got us located in tents and made us comfortable. After about six weeks of this we moved to the barracks which had recently been completed and stayed in there for about six weeks. We then moved to our permanent barracks in the sanitary trains.

The sanitary trains here comprise four ambulance companies, one of which is animal drawn and three motor drawn. Near the sanitary train is the Base Hospital, capable of holding 2000 cases. It has very fine equipment, is spread over a great area of ground, one-story wards.

The reservation here covers about 14,000 acres of maneuver ground. The barracks for the men will hold about 40,000 and are about three miles long by two miles wide. In regard to receiving instruction officers in Ambulance Companies must be able to command men, giving usual drill regulation, litter drills and command ambulance work, setting up stations, etc.

There are now several British and French officers in camp giving instruction in hand grenade, French mortar, rifle grenade and poison gas. Imagine men of Mendocino County putting on a gas mask in six seconds. The infantry are already passing through gas every day.

(LT.) RAYMOND A. BABCOCK,
Ambulance Co. No. 364, 316 Sanitary Train, Camp Lewis, Wash.

From Dr. Sterling Bunnell, Secaucus, New Jersey.

Since the first of the year I have been stationed at Hoboken, New Jersey, the port of embarkation, awaiting the arrival of our San Francisco unit. Have been at first given the job of learning army hospital management. It is most exact but a very smoothly running system when working perfectly. I am now established in the Army Hospital, Secaucus, N. J., not doing surgery, but taking care of my share of the 350 contagious cases and acting as supply and property officer for the hospital. Lieut. Harold Fletcher of San Francisco is one of us and there are but four of us doing the medical work of the hospital.

Recently I saw at the Rockefeller Institute, Dr. Fred Allen of San Francisco carrying out his exhaustive experiments on diabetes. He has done a

tremendous amount of work. I also saw Dr. Jacques Loeb and he showed me his two dozen full grown fatherless frogs that he had produced by merely pricking the eggs. He also showed me aseptic flies that he had grown through forty-four generations aseptically. He finds that their longevity is not determined by bacterial flora as thought by Metchnikoff but is determined directly by the temperature. This temperature curve is the same temperature curve he finds that governs the degree of chemical reactions.

Have enjoyed meeting the members of the Stanford unit who were delayed in Philadelphia and New York because of their equipment going astray. It is a mighty good unit with many representative men in it.

From Dr. Walter S. Johnson, Base Hospital, Camp Kearny.

The Surgeon General's office at Washington assigned me to duty at the Base Hospital, Camp Kearny, in connection with venereal diseases, and I am in charge of this department. It is a very large service and the venereal incidence at one time was a gigantic problem. The great bulk of the work came before our base hospital was completed and a temporary hospital was under canvas. Supplies for carrying out our work had not arrived and the task of having to care for so many taxed the ingenuity of most of the medical and surgical staff.

My operating table was made by sawing a few two by fours for the legs, and twelve-inch rough floor boards for the top, the top being made somewhat trough shape to facilitate drainage. Instrument tables were made of the same material, as were benches, desks and other furniture necessary for operating or treatment.

Our methods of sterilization were also very crude. Alcohol stoves were furnished and a new tin wash basin made a very good boiler for instruments. Towels soaked in bichloride were the only means of protecting the field of operation. God was good and strange to say, infection was not known. Under these adverse conditions, two hundred complicated cases were in the department as bed patients and we were treating three hundred and fifty in the outclinic Genito-Urinary Department daily, with a medical personnel of six reserve medical officers. Our nurses and hospital corps were men fresh from the ranches, which means that they were raw recruits.

At the present time we are housed in our new Base Hospital and we are getting supplies continually and will probably get more when they cut out some of the army red tape.

The work means long hours, hard, but very interesting work and our experiences are making us fit for any service. Many of us look back to those independent days of civil practice longingly, but the watch word is play the game and play it with the best that is in you.

From Dr. Bruce Ffoulkes, Camp Funston, Kansas.

I arrived M. O. T. C., Fort Riley, Kansas, on June 1st. There was no one at the station to meet us as guide, so we wandered around the post trying to orientate ourselves. We found that we were in a reservation of 22,000 acres. The distance of a mile between buildings was the rule rather than the exception. After lugging our suit cases and overcoats for about two hours, incidentally on account of the heat, our white collars were warped and our personal appearance generally mussed up, we located the Adjutant's office, at which we registered.

They registered our name, age, specialty, previous service, if any, maiden name of any female relative in case of homesickness, name of our grandmother's special brand of fruit, and who to ship the remains to in case of sudden death. This being concluded, we were directed to walk north and east about two and one-half miles to our quarters. On arriving at above named quarters, we found it to be a large, two-story, stone building of imposing aspect with windows and doors barred with three-quarter inch iron bars. Inquiry brought forth the information that the building was the Artillery guard house, temporarily turned over for the use of the Medical Officers in training until the cantonment would be built. Imagine the awaking, when we expected two or three rooms and bath to find we were to occupy this building containing two large rooms of about one hundred by thirty feet with cots placed as close together as the dormitory of a girls' seminary.

Doctors began to arrive in twos and threes all morning until about noon there were thirty of us. About 11:30 that same morning a very soldierly First Lieutenant of the Medical Corps came among us and announced that 1 p. m. everybody was ordered to appear at the Infirmary. At the appointed hour we presented ourselves, were physically examined, vaccinated on the right arm and shot full of typhoid prophylactic in the left, then nonchalantly told, as it was Saturday, we had nothing to do until Monday morning. It was a good thing as by the next morning every one of us was sicker than a poisoned pup.

Monday morning reveille sounded at 5:15, and at 5:25 the roll was called. From that time on we worked from 5:15 a. m. until 10 p. m. You can imagine our feelings to be awakened at 5:15 a. m. when most of us had been in the habit of having breakfast in bed.

Monday morning we started to be taught according to the rule of the camp, every hour being taken up by recitations, study or exercises. We were taught making our own beds, drills, setting up exercises, army regulations, manual of the Medical Department, manual of court martial, paper work of the medical ordnance, Quartermaster Departments, sanitation, map making, tent pitching, incinerator construction, latrine construction, etc., ad finem.

The course of instruction extended from June 1st until September 1, 1917. After our company of doctors arrived, in all eighty-nine, which was designated Company I, the first jolt we received was to be formed into a regular company. The two major surgeons being designated the captain and lieutenant of the company, and seven sergeants and seven corporals, and the rest of the company privates. Yours truly was appointed first duty sergeant. It was quite a come down to be stripped of our rank and be known only as sergeants, corporals, and privates. My work started in by organizing a complete company and then after organization to teach the other medical officers of the different companies the duties of a medical officer in the field. By the first of July we had six companies of doctors and new companies were arriving about every ten days. When I left the training camp in September there were fourteen companies of about a total of 2000 doctors. I might say right here that the men who responded to the country's call were not young men, but middle-aged. The average was 39 years. This should make the younger men hang their heads in shame. What we need badly even today is young men in field service especially, for it takes young, vigorous, physically fit men to do the work they are called upon to perform. The eighty-ninth Division is commanded by Major General Leonard Wood, a fine officer, one who is loved by officers and men alike. We all take pride in the eighty-ninth and when we go over seas, expect to give a good account of ourselves.